# NSIP NEWS

A monthly newsletter of the National Sheep Improvement Program

info@nsip.org https://nsip.org

National Sheep Improvement PROGRAM

## IN THIS ISSUE:


- Chairman's Notes
- 2026 Sale Results
- Bill Shultz Memorial
- Center of the Nation Sale
- Upcoming Events


**NSIP Data Run Reminder**

**Next Data Run:**
**October 1**
**October 15**
**October 30**

As we get into our second newsletter the summer is about to be over and fall is upon us (my favorite season). A "sheep week" report below shows the strength of the sheep markets and the value of genetically superior seedstock.

The Exec Board has been continuing discussions regarding the transition. The little things involved seem to add up, but progress is being made. Genetic testing has been an area that the genomic committee has been researching and there is potential to cooperate with others in the industry to improve service and lower costs.

NSIP is participating with American Lamb Board and the AMP grant program. We will be developing some new, and revising existing, material for an educational component. This will provide advice regarding utilization of NSIP in both seedstock and commercial operation in multiple environments. To accomplish this, we will be looking for presenters that can showcase their talent and NSIP knowledge to educating cooperators. Our Education Committee is in the process of producing the material for this program. All our material will be available for local presentations.

As the seedstock we produced and sold to new flocks this year move to new owners, it would be a good time to promote NSIP and recruit new members and encourage previous members to rejoin.



**Curt Stanley**
**NSIP Chairman**

# 2026 Ram and Ewe Sale Results

## *From Wyoming, Montana and North Dakota*

The second week in September, affectionately coined “Sheep Week” in the west, has concluded for 2026. The lamb and wool markets generally set the mood coming into the fall ram sale season, making many optimists this year. However, persisting drought, rising fuel costs, and general inflation were also on buyers’ minds. What is hopeful is the continued demand for ewes across the region. In Miles City, 382 commercial yearling ewes averaged $594 per head, with 30 ewe lambs $475 per head. Below is a summary of ram sale averages by breed across the three sales.

| | Ram Sale Averages | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Breed Type | Montana | Wyoming | Hettinger |
| *Dual Purpose / Fine Wool* | | | |
| Rambouillet | **$1,471** | **$1,305** | **$1,014** |
| Targhee | **$1,164** | **$858** | **$1,600** |
| Columbia | — | **$780** | **$875** |
| SAMM | **$517** | **$1,720** | **$866** |
| *Terminal* | | | |
| Black-faced (Suffolk/Hamp) | **$1,398** | Suffolk × Hamp: **$960**<br>Suffolk: **$1,017**<br>Hampshire: **$744** | Hamp: **$1,300**<br>Suffolks: **$1,100** |
| Ile de France | **$1,400** | — | — |
| *Maternal Wool* | | | |
| Polypay | — | — | **$975** |
| Dorset | — | — | **$1,062** |
| *Hair* | | | |
| Katahdin | — | **$600** | — |
| **Overall** | **$1,247** | | **$1,095** |




Bill Shultz passed away on Friday, August 28th . Among many things, Bill was an amazing supporter of the National Sheep Improvement Program, and the broader Ohio and American sheep industries. Bill served on the NSIP Board and as Treasurer. We are left with the wonderful memories this soft-spoken man graced us with. We wish warmth, comfort and love to Susan, their son, Joe, and family. Bill was proud of the over 15,000 trees he and Susan planted along Rum Creek on their back acreage in DeGraff, Ohio. There were Red, White, and Burr Oaks, Black Walnuts, Sweetgums, Kentucky Coffeetree, and Sycamores. In true Bill fashion, he planted these trees knowing that he won't see them in their full mature glory, but instead for later generations to enjoy.

To honor Bill, we would like to encourage those that are interested to plant a tree in his memory. NSIP would like to help. A group of us have come together to create a fund to facilitate the purchase of trees through The Arbor Day Foundation. If interested, email info@nsip.org with your shipping address and tree species of preference.

Options are:

- **Burr Oak**, 3-4' bare-root, Zones 3-8, not available for AK, AZ, CA, FL, HI, LA, OR
- **Northern Red Oak**, 3-4' bare-root, Zones 3-8, not available for AK, AZ, CA, FL, HI, LA

OR

- **White Oak**, 3-4' bare-root, Zones 3-9, not available for AK, AZ, CA, FL, HI, LA, OR
- **Black Walnut**, 3-4' bare-root, Zones 4-9, not available for AK, AR, AZ, CA, HI, IA, IL, IN, KS, MI, MN, MO, NE, OH, OK, PA, TN, TX, VA, WI, WV

Susan made it clear that Shultzy would be adamant: NO ORNAMENTALS!
Trees are currently listed to ship mid-November. Once the order is placed, we'll follow up with details.
***Rest easy, Bill. You'll be dearly missed.***

# 2026 NSIP Center of the Nation Sale

*Written by Brenda Reau and Dylan Laverell*

The NSIP Center of the Nation Sale took place on Saturday, July 25th at the Clay County Fairgrounds in Spencer, Iowa.

There were 97 head of rams and 47 head of ewes on offer from breeders across the country. These sheep represented the Polypay, Dorset, Texel, Suffolk, Hampshire, Katahdin, and Ile De France breeds. The highest selling ram was a Suffolk from Culham & Stevens (Michigan) that sold for $3,500 to Jeremy Peth (Ohio). The highest selling ewes were Polypays from Big Prairie Polypays (Illinois) that sold for $1,900 per head to Ben Stroh (North Dakota). The rams averaged $1,428.72 and the ewes averaged $851.00.

The day prior to the sale, July 24, the Goeken Family hosted a tour that consisted of over 40 participants who learned about the Goeken's commercial operation. The 1,200-head commercial Polypay flock, located in Everly, Iowa, produces both replacement ewes and lambs for market. They have been raising sheep for 25 years, using both maternal and terminal NSIP rams for the last 15 years to increase production and profitability in their operation.

Kevin Goeken and his son, Noah, led the tour of the farm's 11 hoop barns converted from hog finishing barns. One barn is a dedicated handling system that allows them to sort, vaccinate, and weigh ewes and lambs quickly. They also have a specialized milk replacer facility attached to their heated lambing barn. To round out the tour, Dr. Andrew Weaver and Todd Taylor facilitated a discussion on ram selection using Estimated



Breeding Values (EBV) and phenotypic evaluation. Participants viewed the Polypay and Suffolk rams and learned how to select to fit the goals of the operation. Thank you to the Goeken family for opening their farm to visitors and providing an educational opportunity to learn how to use EBV.

There was a delicious lamb BBQ for the consignor's dinner. Thank you to Superior Farms for providing the lamb and to Kevin Goeken for bringing his grill and expertly cooking the lamb. Mark VanRoekel and Noah Goeken assisted in preparation and kept a steady supply of lamb coming for the buffet line. The weather was pleasant, and it was an enjoyable evening!

For more information on the sale, or to consign rams for the 2027 Center of the Nation Sale, please contact NSIP Promotions and Sales Committee Chair Todd Taylor at toddtaylor@wisc.edu.

# 2026 NSIP Center of the Nation Sale



Above: commercial crossbred lambs at the Goeken Farm being fed and housed in one of the farms hoop barns. Below: Polypay ram in the ring during the sale.




*Photos courtesy of Brenda Reau and Cody Hiemke*

# Upcoming Events

**Here's a list of some upcoming sales that include rams (and ewes!) with estimated breeding values.**

**Know of an event that isn't on our list? Let us know at info@nsip.org!**

**September 25-26, 2026: University of Wisconsin-Badger Production Sale.** *Online*

- Hosted on Production Livestock Auctions







**October 2-3, 2026: The National Ram Sale.** *Heber City, UT*

- https://www.nationalramsale.com/

# SALE EVENTS SCHEDULE

Wasatch County Events Complex • Heber City, Utah
415 Southfield Rd, Heber City, UT 84032

## FRIDAY • OCTOBER 2

| | |
|---|---|
| 9:00 AM | **Sifting, Papers & Paint Branding**<br>Vet and committee on site; all consignors required to attend. |
| 3:30 PM | **FREE PRODUCER EDUCATION PROGRAM**<br>Western sheep health, next-generation producer innovation, hair sheep research, American Lamb Board update, ASI 201 Lamb Trade Case update. |
| 6:00 PM | **NRS SOCIAL HOUR**<br>Food and Music • Saddle String Cowboy Band<br>Ewe and Ram Viewing |
| 7:00 PM | **NATIONAL EWE SALE** |
| 8:00 PM | Music & Socializing |

## SATURDAY • OCTOBER 3

| | |
|---|---|
| 7:00 AM | Ram Viewing |
| 9:00 AM | Silent Auction benefiting the National Ram Sale Foundation |
| 11:00 AM | Free Lamb Lunch prepared by Nick & Karen Maneotis |
| 12:00 PM | **NATIONAL RAM SALE** \| **ALL ARE WELCOME** |

For additional information, consignor bios, videos and photos, visit
**www.nationalramsale.com**

NATIONAL RAM SALE